

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-11 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 8 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sasakura (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,144), claims 5-7 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sasakura in view of Muramoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,523,785) and claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sasakura in view of Konno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,781). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In particular, Applicant asserts that Sasakura does not disclose or suggest an electronic still camera including at least, a photographic image capturing device that outputs color image data, an analytic image capturing device that outputs color image data, an analyzing circuit that performs a scene analysis based upon the color image data, and an image processing circuit that performs image processing on the color image data, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9-11.

Specifically, Sasakura teaches an automatic focusing device in which an automatic focusing sensor (element 7, Fig. 5) outputs a correlation signal in order to calculate the amount of deviation (col. 4, lines 39-51). However, Sasakura does not disclose or suggest that the data outputted by the sensor 7 is color image data (as recited in independent claims 1 and 9-11) since the sensor 7 outputs a correlation signal only. Accordingly, because Sasakura does not disclose each and every feature of independent claims 1 and 9-11, Applicant asserts that independent claims 1 and 9-11 are patentable over Sasakura.

Applicant further asserts that dependent claims 2-4 and 12-14, for at least their dependence on allowable independent claims 1 and 11, are also patentable over Sasakura.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sasakura be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicant asserts that Sasakura does not output image data for scene analysis, but merely outputs data to determine deviation (col. 4, lines 39-58). Thus, Sasakura does not allow for the calculation of parameters such as coefficients and gains to support various types of image processing performed by the image processing circuit. Moreover, Sasakura is not capable of calculating a gradation curve based upon the brightness value indicated by the image data for scene analysis.

Muramoto discloses an image processing technique wherein an output of the image capturing device is separated into a high frequency component and a low frequency component (Abstract, lines 1-14). Although Muramoto discloses the evolution of the amplification gain of the high frequency component, which varies with respect to the signal level of the low frequency component (Fig. 3; col. 6, lines 49-59), Muramoto does not disclose or suggest that the gamma correction is based upon brightness values in the color image data, as recited in claims 5 and 15, and similarly recited in claims 6-7 and 16-17.

Accordingly, because Muramoto fails to cure deficiencies in Sasakura in disclosing an electronic still camera comprising an analyzing circuit that calculates a gradation curve based upon brightness values in the color image data, Applicant asserts that claims 5-7 and 15-17 are patentable over a combination of Sasakura and Muramoto. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5-7 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sasakura and Muramoto be withdrawn.

Finally, Applicant asserts that neither Sasakura nor Konno, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a single lens reflex type electronic still camera including at least a photographic image capturing device that captures a subject image and outputs color image data, as recited in independent claim 9, and similarly recited in independent claim 10.

Konno instead discloses an optical filter for the image capturing device in a phototaking interchangeable lens barrel (Abstract, lines 1-7). Applicant asserts that although Konno teaches a quick return mirror (element 4, Fig. 1), Konno fails to cure deficiencies in Sasakura in disclosing a single lens reflex type electronic still camera including a photographic image capturing device that outputs color image data, an analytic image capturing device that outputs color image data, and an arithmetic operation circuit that is supplied with the color image data.

Accordingly, because Konno fails to cure deficiencies in Sasakura, Applicant asserts that independent claims 9 and 10 are patentable over a combination of Sasakura and Konno. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sasakura and Konno be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 10, 2004

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